

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-34, 40, 47, 49-51, 53-57 and 60-97 are in this case. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-34, 40, 47, 49-51, 53, 56-57, 60-66, 69-71 and 80-97 have been rejected under § 112, second paragraph. Claims 54, 55, 67, 68 and 72-79 have been allowed. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-34, 40, 47, 49-51, 53, 56-57, 60-66, 69-71 and 80-97 have been canceled.

The claims before the Examiner are directed toward a local area network based on serial intelligent cells (SICs) that are connected in a pairwise manner only by electrically-conducting media to form communicating pairs. The two SICs of each pair communicate with each other, bidirectionally, in full-duplex mode, and independent of any other pair, exclusively via the respective electrically-conducting media. In various embodiments, the electrically-conducting media include electrical power wiring or telephone wiring of a building; at least one of the media is used for both data exchange and either electrical power delivery, analog telephony or digital telephony; at least one of the SICs is powered from an electrical power main, from a dedicated power line, or from the electrically-conducting media of its respective pair, or can itself deliver electrical power; or at least one of the pairs is partly housed within an electrical outlet. In other embodiments, one of the SICs includes a sensor or an actuator; one of the SICs is connected to a public telephone network interface; or the local area network functions as a multiplexer.

§ 112, Second Paragraph Rejections

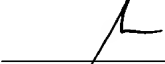
The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-34, 40, 47, 49-51, 53, 56-57, 60-66, 69-71 and 80-97 under § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, the Examiner has pointed out that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the recitation of "said at least one communicating pair" in claims 1, 40, 47, 53, 60, 61, 64, 66 and 69; and that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the recitation of "said plurality of serial intelligent cells" in claims 47, 53, 60, 61, 64, 66 and 69.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-34, 40, 47, 49-51, 53, 56-57, 60-66, 69-71 and 80-97 now have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 54, 67, 72, 74, 78 and 79, and hence dependent claims 55, 68, 73 and 75-77 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 28, 2002